

# METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SWITCHING BETWEEN METRO ETHERNET NETWORKS AND EXTERNAL NETWORKS

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

According to the present invention, methods and apparatus are provided to allow efficient switching of frames for transmission between a Layer 2 Virtual Local Area Network such as a Metro Ethernet Network and an external network. Reserved  
10 inner tags are used to identify particular services. In one example, inner tags allow mapping of frames associated with a particular subnetwork onto a particular virtual circuit associated with an ATM network.